

Soldiers

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

April 2002

Task Force Rakkasans

Duty in Greece

The Army's FutureCar

EARTH DAY POSTER
Inside

Soldiers

April 2002 Volume 57, No. 4

GREECE

SOLDIERS IN



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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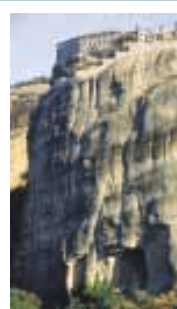
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EARTH DAY POSTER

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Front cover:

PFC Dennis Kusak of Co. B, 2nd Bn., 187th Inf., is among the 101st Abn. Div. troops serving in Afghanistan. — Photo by SSG Alberto Betancourt



From the Editor

THIS issue of *Soldiers* features the 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan. Our photo editor, SSG Alberto Betancourt, provides an inside look at taking care of business in a combat zone.

Through never-before-seen photographs and compelling first-person accounts, Betancourt takes us directly to the War on Terrorism's front lines. In "Task Force Rakkasans," he chronicles the division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and in "MPs in Afghanistan" he shows us how the 519th MP Battalion secures the Kandahar detainee facility.

For a look at service in a warmer climate, Beth Reece takes us to Greece to showcase the soldiers assigned to NATO's Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central, in Larissa. "Duty in Greece" provides an overview of the command's mission and our soldiers' contributions to it. "Exploring Greece's Past and Present" shows us some of the fantastic cultural and travel opportunities soldiers stationed there can take advantage of in their off-duty time.

Finally, Managing Editor Gil High brings you the hit of this year's Detroit Auto Show — the Army's newest concept vehicle, the FutureCar.

John C. Smith

Retirement Facts

I READ the February issue of *Soldiers* with great interest. What especially interested me was the great pullout on retirement. It was especially meaningful to me, as I am preparing to submit for retirement.

As I looked at the formulas used to figure retirement pay, I was intrigued to find the monthly base pay for an E8 with 24 years of service to be \$3,724.80. I had to double-check to see if that was correct.

Am I that special that my LES shows my base pay as an E8 with 24 years of service as \$3,709.62, or didn't I try hard enough on my APFT?

Thanks for a great informative magazine.

MSG Timothy J. Hutchinson
Via e-mail

WHILE we're not finance specialists (or rocket scientists, for that matter), it seems to us that maybe you're being underpaid. If we were you, we'd hotfoot it over to the local finance office and ask the pay folks to crunch the numbers again.

Muslim and Soldier

A QUOTE you credited to CPT Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad in the February article "Muslim and Soldier" is misleading and (as written) unnecessarily controversial.

In the article CPT Muhammad is quoted and saying he was "impressed by the charisma and faith of Malcolm X." This could be misinterpreted as an endorsement of Malcolm X's life as spokesman for Nation of Islam, his militant views of societal evolution and public criticism of Martin Luther King's belief in non-violence. Those aspects of Malcolm X's legacy are not in keeping with Army

Bad Language?

I MUST say that the March issue of *Soldiers* is very informative and has some great articles. I was impressed with the coverage of the U.S. Military Academy's 200th anniversary, and with the article on the movie "We Were Soldiers." All 48 pages are packed with information about our great Army.

However, I must take offense to a comment printed on page 33. In the article "An Author's Quest" Heike Hasenauer used a quote by journalist Joe Galloway regarding the circumstances in 1982 that led him to call LTG Hal Moore about writing the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young." Galloway is quoted as referring to one of the characters in the movie "American Graffiti" as "...the goofy kid with the glasses who couldn't get laid." I was quite surprised to see this in *Soldiers* magazine.

I expect Soldiers to uphold the Army's core values. I expect the magazine to represent the Army and to be a document that family members can read. I am not comfortable with this language in print in an official Army publication. It should never have been printed. This is one instance that *Soldiers* magazine did not uphold the Army's core values or represent the Army professionally.

I initially thought the issue was a great one to show my family on the history of West Point and the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley. Now I won't be showing them one part of it.

LTC William P. Shea
Via e-mail

values and equal-opportunity objectives.

What I am sure CPT Muhammad was referring to (but the article did not explain) was not the militant charisma and faith of Malcolm X, but his well-documented conversion to Sunni Islam and rejection of extremist beliefs.

After a pilgrimage to Mecca, Malcolm X converted to mainstream Islam and changed his name to Malik El-Shabazz. He publicly recanted his previously held convictions and embraced the concept of unity (for all mankind) as delineated in the Islamic faith.

This charisma and faith is

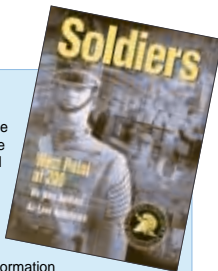
the real and rarely publicized legacy of Malik El-Shabazz. His conversion and rejection of radical ideology directly contributed to his assassination in 1965.

LTC Mark A. Farrar
Fort Knox, Ky.

Alive and Well

In your March interview with reporter Joe Galloway you stated that SPC 5 James Clark — a participant in the battle at Landing Zone X-ray — died as a result of his injuries. I am happy to inform you that he is alive and well and lives in Columbus, Ga.

MAJ John Calahan
Fort Benning, Ga.



No Berets in Reserve

IF the black beret is supposed to be symbol of unity in the entire Army, why is it that we in the reserve component haven't yet received the new beret in quantity?

In my unit, we have only gotten a handful, and those only came in two sizes — too big and too small! And no one can present a proper military bearing in berets like the few that trickled down to us.

Name withheld by request

Official Names Only

I'VE noticed that you never run the full designations of some units, the things in parentheses like (Air Assault) or (Light). Aren't you supposed to use a unit's full, official designation?

Name withheld by request

AS a matter of fact, we are re-

quired to use only official designations — which is why we don't run things like (Air Assault) or (Light) or (Mechanized). Those are known as "parenthetical identifications," and usually indicate a unit's function. AR 220-5, "Designation, Classification and Change of Status in Units," states that when a unit designation "includes a parenthetical identification, that portion not in parentheses is the official designation."

The official designations of Army units are determined by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, not by units themselves. That's one reason why we never use such terms as "parachute infantry regiment" and "airborne infantry regiment." The Army hasn't had PIRs or AIRs in many years and, despite their widespread popularity in some airborne units, these designations are incorrect and unofficial.

What About the 10th?

IN your coverage of Operation Enduring Freedom you've hardly mentioned the 10th Mountain Division, which has played a key role since the beginning. We're putting it on the line just as much as the folks in the 101st Airborne and special forces, yet we get no recognition. What's the deal?

Name withheld by request

Though we did mention the 10th Mountain Division several times in our Briefings department as Operation Enduring Freedom unfolded, security restrictions imposed by the division itself precluded us from doing an in-depth article on the 10th's deployment to, and early activities

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: Feedback, *Soldiers*, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. 5108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

in, Central Asia. We hope to be able to focus on the division in an upcoming article.

The Only Insignia

IN response to SSG Ryan Tozier's November 2001 letter about wearing an armband to show loyalty to the commander in chief and country, I'd just like to say one thing. You already wear the uniform of your country's armed forces. What more do you need to do to show your support?

To best serve the nation, come to work every day, practice your warrior skills and be prepared to defend your country against all enemies.

SFC James G. Thurman
Fort Bragg, N.C.

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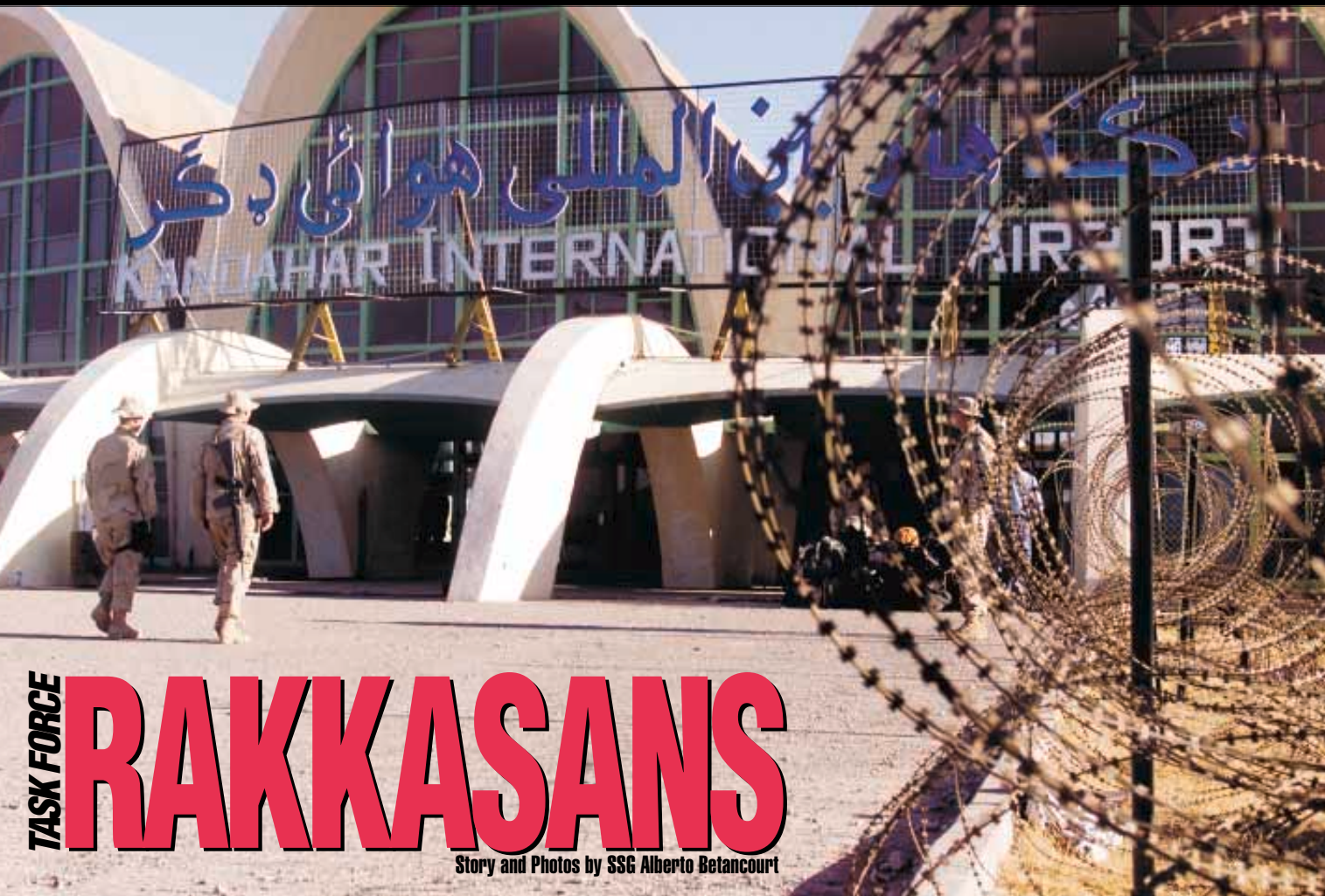
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TASK FORCE RAKKASANS

Story and Photos by SSG Alberto Betancourt



▲ PV2 Jessie Travis of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry, scans for suspicious activity from his fighting position inside the airfield's perimeter.

PV2 Chris Abata has been in the Army just over six months. He'd recently gotten married, but in January found himself living in a hole in the ground approximately 8,000 miles away from his wife and friends in Erie, Pa.

Abata, a member of the Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, is one of more than 2,000 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"I feel like the rest of our nation feels after what happened Sept. 11," Abata said. "I miss my wife, but I'm glad I'm here doing my part to end terrorism."

COL Frank Wiercinski, Task Force Rakkasans' (3rd BCT) commander, said the average age of his soldiers is 21 years. He said many of them have never been out of the United States before and are now in a country devastated by years of war.

"They see this is a dangerous place the moment they touch the ground," he said. "Some of these soldiers witnessed a firefight inside our perimeter as they were getting off the plane."

▲ The 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division is responsible for securing Afghanistan's war-battered Kandahar International Airport.



▲ For members of the Scout Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, "home" in Kandahar is a damaged building within the airfield's perimeter.

He said Afghanistan is a combat zone and in that zone it's not whether you've been in combat before that makes you good — it's the training you receive that makes you good in combat.

"These soldiers have had superb training through our normal training cycles, but since Sept. 11 we ratcheted

it up a bit," he said. "The president ordered us to get ready and that's exactly what the Rakkasans did."

Wiercinski felt that his full-spectrum brigade was the "right choice" in the transfer of authority between the Marines and the Army, a transition he described as "smooth and seamless."

"We were very systematic and extremely sequential during the transfer of authority," he said. "We're in a combat zone where inefficiency can become extremely dangerous."

A full-spectrum brigade has offensive capabilities during combat but can quickly adapt to any developing situation, from security operations all the way down to humanitarian missions.

▲ PV2 Jessie Travis stays inside his fighting position on the north side of the airfield while his "battle buddy," PV2 Jeremy Paz, fills sandbags.



▲ Members of the anti-Taliban forces peer at soldiers manning an observation post outside the airfield.



▲ CPT Matthew Donald (left), commander of the 108th MP Co., talks to CPL Jason Johnson and SPC Natasha Nelson outside the detainee facility.



▲ Members of the anti-Taliban forces pass the time watching activities near the "South Tower" OP.



▲ Scout Platoon member SGT Jacob Anderson prepares a meal inside the sniper tower inside the airfield's perimeter.

Wiercinski felt that his full-spectrum brigade was the "right choice" in the transfer of authority.



SPC Scott Whitlock of HHC, 2nd Bn., 187th Inf., keeps an eye on activities surrounding the "north tower" OP.

from the blustering cold winds and the desert's nonstop dust waves.

"It looks like we're going to be here a while so I might as well make it feel like home," he said of the 7-by-10-foot, sandbag-enclosed pit. "I signed up to do this — that's why I'm here doing my job."

Like Abata, PV2 John Quaid was doing his job. The scout from Centralia, Wash., occupied an observation post overlooking an Afghan village.

Quaid and the rest of his 2nd Bn. team lived high above the ground at the south tower, the OP farthest from Kanadhar's airport. Besides the village, the view from the tower includes a decaying Russian-built barracks — a reminder of the Soviet Union's 10-year war in Afghanistan. The soldiers could also see a minefield approximately 500 meters away. Also assigned to the tower



SPC Scott Fleckenstein of Co. C, 2nd Bn., 187th Inf., carefully searches an Afghan's belongings before allowing him through the airport gate.

were members of the Anti-Taliban forces, a group of AK-47-toting Afghans who guarded the airfield's perimeter.

"Working with the Afghans is challenging," Quaid said. "We don't understand them, and we don't know if our interpreter is really telling us everything they say."

Although butterflies still occasionally swarmed in his stomach, he said he felt secure knowing his team was watching his back.

"I'm very proud to be doing my part for my country," Quaid said. "I'm properly trained to do what I'm doing."

Wiercinski said the mission in Afghanistan will continue until the president says it's complete.

"I deployed here with a certain number of soldiers, I intend to take the same number of soldiers back home safely," he said. □

"Our brigade combat team is very powerful," he said. "We bring combined arms to the fight. We also have support personnel, medical and aviation. We have the right combination for full-spectrum capabilities."

Force protection, the security of the Kandahar international airport, and logistics are a priority for Wiercinski.

"This airfield is extremely important," he said. "It brings in continued Air Force supply and resupply. Holding this airfield and ensuring everyone here is safe and secure is my primary job."

Meanwhile, back at his fighting position almost half a mile from the airport terminal where the majority of the task force lived in tents, Abata was making curtains out of polypropylene bags for his bunker, to protect him

PV2 John Quaid, also of HHC, 2nd Bn., uses his sniper rifle's telescopic sight to check on movement in an Afghan village near his OP.



MPs in Afghanistan

SINCE Jan. 1, soldiers of the Fort Polk, La.-based 519th Military Police Battalion have been ensuring that the detainee facility at Afghanistan's Kandahar International Airport is secure and the detainees needs are met.

"We've had challenges, not only with the detainee facility, but also with building up this base camp despite the difficulty of getting materials here," said battalion commander LTC Keith Warman. "We've prioritized what had to come in immediately and

so far all the challenges have been met, both for the care of the soldiers and the detainees."

Besides soldiers from Fort Polk, the battalion is supported by MPs from the 65th and 108th MP companies from Fort Bragg, N.C.

"This is a great opportunity for the MP corps," said Warman. "This will be part of our nation's history."

Warman is "warden" of the detainee facility, better known locally as "Yankee Stadium" because of the towering floodlights surrounding the compound. He said it's his responsibility to ensure the detainee population is under control.

"Our soldiers feed and provide medical attention to the detainees," he said. "We're giving them the best quality of life possible

under these conditions. We must also keep them secure — not only among themselves but from the guard forces protecting them."

Besides the detainee facility, the MPs also work security at the main gate.

"We supervise the searching of local Afghans selected to work inside the compound," said CPT Matthew Donald, commander of the 108th MP Co. "We make sure nothing enters the perimeter that can be used as a weapon or for gathering intelligence on the set-up of the compound."

Donald said the MPs work 12-hour shifts guarding the detainee facility.

SPC Natasha Nelson has been in the Army only two years, but already is a seasoned veteran. She served six months in Kosovo and said Afghanistan is her second "real-world" mission.

"I hate the reason we're here, but I signed on to protect my country and that's what I'm here to do," she said.

Nelson said her family is very proud of her and supports her mission in Afghanistan 100 percent.

"I'm looking forward to the gym equipment showing up so I can beef-up again," she said.

CPL Jason Johnson works inside the facility as a guard.

"At first it was awkward being around all the detainees," he said. "But I got used to it."

The Texas native said he's very proud to be supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"This is a great mission for us," he said. "It gives us the opportunity to employ the training we've received for a combat environment like this one in Afghanistan." — SSG Alberto Belancourt



Soldiers from the 519th MP Bn. and 2nd Bn., 187th Inf., monitor the front gate of the airfield as Afghans wait their turn to be searched before entering.



SPC Rickey Currie of the 187th Inf. watches carefully as PFC John Cullinan searches an Afghan before allowing him onto the airport grounds.



Operation Noble Eagle

At press time, more than 24,100 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers had been called up to provide security at airports and other facilities around the country.

Repair of the Pentagon was ahead of schedule, and by the end of January more than 1,000 people had returned to work in the building. The portion damaged by the hijacked airliner will be opened for use by the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack.

On Feb. 6, the Pentagon reopened for school tours.

Operation Enduring Freedom

On Jan. 8, a field hospital built by 10th Mountain Division soldiers, other U.S. organization and Jordanian special forces soldiers was opened to treat Afghan civilians in Mazar e-Sharif.

On Jan. 17, International Red Cross officials made their first visit to detainees at Camp X-ray, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

On Jan. 28, 14 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Div. were injured when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed near Khowst, Afghanistan. On the same day, five soldiers were injured in a forklift accident.

On Feb. 4, stop loss expanded to 38 specialties. Go to <http://perscomnd04.army.mil/milpermsgs.nsf/WebFrameset?OpenFrameSet> and click on 2002 Messages and then message number 02-096 for a complete list.

On Feb. 13, a soldier from 7th Transportation Battalion at Fort Bragg, N.C., was killed at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, after a piece of heavy equipment fell on him.

Alexandria, Va.

Recreation Sites Upgraded

THE Army is adding more rooms to its "Shades of Green" hotel at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida and building a brand new hotel in the heart of Bavaria.

The \$132 million projects — approved by Congress and

the Defense Department — won't cost taxpayers a dime. Construction will be funded through a commercial loan, which will be repaid by nonappropriated funds generated by the four Armed Forces Recreation Centers.

The new 330-room hotel in Garmisch, an hour south of Munich, Germany, at the foot of the Bavarian Alps, will replace four older hotels currently oper-

ating in Chiemsee and Garmisch.

"It's cheaper to build a new hotel than to renovate the existing properties," said Peter F. Isaacs, chief operating officer of the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center in Alexandria, Va.

Rooms in the new hotel will be twice the size of existing rooms, comfortably accommodating four people and all their summer or winter recreational gear.

Hotel amenities will include a swimming pool, spa facilities, conference and meeting rooms, and a restaurant and lounge, all scheduled to open in 2004.

In Orlando, Fla., the Army is adding 299 guest rooms to Shades of Green at Walt Disney World Resort. The Army leased the 287-room Disney Inn in 1993 and bought it in 1996.

During the 18 months of construction, to begin in April, the hotel will close. Isaacs said trying to keep the hotel open during expansion would have a negative impact on guests and would make physical security too difficult to maintain.

"By closing the hotel completely, we'll reduce construc-

tion time by six months and the cost of the project by \$6 million," said Isaacs. Plans call for the newly expanded hotel to reopen in September 2003.

While the hotel is closed, military members can still visit the area and stay in affordable hotels.

"Travelers can still make their reservations online at the Shades of Green website," said Isaacs.

Room rates at recommended hotels will be the same as they were for Shades of Green, but guests will have to pay state and local taxes during this period.

Customers will be informed about the taxes when they make their reservations.

Shades of Green employees will continue to operate the reservation system and the attraction ticket-sales office. — *CFSC Public Affairs Office*

Washington, D.C.

OMPF Online Expands to Meet Growth

CAPTAINS and staff sergeants who are being considered for promotion this spring and sum-



Shades of Green in Florida will close during the 18-month renovation, but other affordable hotels will be available.

mer can review their Official Military Personnel Files online.

OMPF Online, which kicked off in November for sergeants first class being considered for promotion, is expanding to more of the force.

In the past three months, OMPF Online has already proved to be a cost-saving initiative for the Army, said COL Howard Olsen, the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center commander.

"About 10 percent of the 20,000 sergeants first class who reviewed their records online didn't request microfiche copies," Olsen said. "It costs about \$1.40 to produce a microfiche,

so just multiply that by 2,000."

EREC's goal is to eliminate soldiers' need for microfiche copies of their records by fiscal year 2003. This will save the Army an enormous amount of money annually, Olsen said.

Another EREC goal is for the entire Army to be able to view military records online by June, Olsen said. This month, new software for the complimentary feature "Field to File" is scheduled to be tested.

It will enable soldiers to send official military personnel documents, such as awards and Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports, directly from a battalion or brigade S-1



Steve Harding

The production version of the Army's Interim Armored Vehicle will be named "Stryker" to honor two MOH recipients.

to the soldiers' OMPF at PERSCOM. — *Army News Service*

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

IAV Named for MOH Recipients

THE Army named the Interim Armored Vehicle the "Stryker," honoring two men who earned the Medal of Honor: PFC Stuart S. Stryker, who served in World War II, and SPC Robert F. Stryker, who served in Vietnam.

The Stryker, the wheeled armored combat vehicle for the Army's Interim Brigade Combat Teams, combines firepower, battlefield mobility, survivability and versatility with reduced logistics requirements.

"This is a tremendous combat vehicle, and it is appropriate that we name it after two great soldiers who gave their last full measure of devotion on the battlefield in defense of our nation," said SMA Jack L. Tilley.

SPC Stryker, who served with the 1st Infantry Division, was posthumously awarded the MOH for saving the life of his fellow soldiers near Loc Ninh, Vietnam. PFC Stryker, who served with the 513th Para-

chute Infantry, posthumously received the MOH for leading an attack near Wesel, Germany, that resulted in the capture of 200 enemy soldiers and freed three American pilots.

"These two great soldiers were separated by a generation and fought on battlefields on opposite sides of the globe, but both made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and their fellow soldiers," said Tilley. "Now it's up to all soldiers to honor the Stryker name by making full use of the vehicle's enormous capabilities."

The Army will field six IBCTs with more than 300 Strykers in each. The first two IBCTs are 3rd Brigade, 2nd Inf. Div. and the 1st Bde., 25th Inf. Div., both at Fort Lewis, Wash. These two brigades are expected to be equipped and ready for deployment during fiscal years 2003 and 2004, respectively.

The next brigades to transform will be the 172nd Inf. Bde. at Fort Richardson, Alaska; the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Polk, La.; the 2nd Bde., 25th Inf. Div., at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the 56th Bde. of the 28th Inf. Div., Pennsylvania National Guard. — *Army Public Affairs*

Tax News

DOD Says: Disregard IRS Mistake

AS many as 60,000 service members who served in combat zones over the past several years recently got letters from the IRS indicating they may lose their tax exclusions for that combat-zone duty. But the Department of Defense said soldiers shouldn't worry about it.

The IRS letters set a deadline for service members to provide the IRS with the dates they entered and left a designated combat zone and the name of the zone in which they served in order to get the tax exemption.

The letters stated: "If you don't answer this letter, we will update your account to show no combat-zone service."

LTC Tom Emswiler, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council, said the IRS never intended to take away anyone's eligibility for tax exemption.

Apparently, an IRS service center sent the letters without coordinating with IRS headquarters, DOD officials said.

Emswiler said the IRS is trying to update its records, but made a mistake in the letter's wording. He said service members who haven't replied to the letters can disregard them. At press time, the IRS plans to mail a second letter explaining the error.

Emswiler said DOD has a good working relationship with the IRS and had no problem getting this matter resolved. "The IRS doesn't want to take adverse action against any service member," he said. "The letter was unfortunate all around, but the IRS is doing everything it can to correct the problem." — *American Forces Press Service*

J01 Preston Keres, USN



SPC Jill Bakken (right) and Vonetta Flowers prepare to board the bobsled that carried them to the gold medal.

Salt Lake City, Utah

Soldiers Win Gold, Silver, Bronze at Olympics

A UTAH National Guard soldier steered her two-seat bobsled to a gold medal in the first women's bobsled competition featured in the Olympic Games.

SPC Jill Bakken, a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program, and civilian braker-pusher Vonetta Flowers drove into the pages of Olympic history.

Bakken is the first WCAP member to win Olympic gold, according to Army officials.

Army Reservist 1LT Garrett Hines, from Atlanta, was the brakeman on the bright red "USA-1" sled that Todd Hays drove to a silver-medal finish on the four-man event's second day.

The four soldiers, in a landmark day for Army athletics, helped the United States claim its first Olympic men's bobsled medals since 1956 — when a U.S. team earned the bronze at Cortina, Italy.

WCAP members SPC Doug Sharp of the Oregon National Guard and SPC Mike Kohn of the Virginia National Guard, joined by SGT Dan Steel and five-time Olympian Brian

Shimer, took the bronze in the four-man bobsled event.

WCAP soldiers also competed in the biathlon. Army SPC Jeremy Teela — the most successful U.S. Olympic military biathlete — placed 14th in the grueling men's 20-kilometer course, 20th in the 10-kilometer sprint and 23rd in the 12.5-kilometer pursuit race.

SGT Kristina Sabasteanski, SPC Andrea Nahrgang and SPC Kara Salmela were on the U.S. women's four-member

biathlon relay team, which finished 15th. — *National Guard Bureau PAO*

Washington, D.C.

Travel and Moves to Be Less Costly

SEVERAL changes in the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act are making moves and official travel less costly for military members.

Changes dealing with dis-

Veterans News

Veterans Targeted For Identity Theft

AN e-mail circulating about a retiree who had his identity stolen after filing separation papers at a county courthouse is no urban legend, according to Transition Center officials at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

Soldiers separating from the military are now being advised to ignore the old recommendation to file their Department of Defense Form 214 (military discharge) with their local county courthouses. Instead, transition counselors advise soldiers to safeguard their personal information to guard against credit fraud, said Deborah Snider, Transition Center personnel analyst.

Identity theft is the fastest-growing crime, according to the Federal Trade Commission, and many victims don't find out that their personal information has been stolen until they try to buy a house or get a loan.

In one case, a lawyer who'd stolen a Navy retiree's identity was found to have a laptop with several thousand military names, Social Security numbers and other information on it. The common link between the veterans on the list was that they had filed their DD 214s with their county courthouses.

When soldiers separate from active duty, Snider said, the most vital document they receive is the DD 214. The document contains their Social Security numbers and birth dates. In the past, soldiers were advised to file the form with their local courthouse to ensure that they would always be able to get a certified copy. A certified copy is required in order to receive any Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

Once the DD 214 is filed, however, it becomes a public record. Some courthouses have put this information online, and even more plan to do so in the future, Snider said.

"Our recommendation is to safeguard the form as you would any vital official paper," Snider said. "A safe-deposit box would be a good investment." — *ARNEWS*

location allowance, temporary lodging expenses, pet quarantines and frequent-flier miles are all designed to reduce out-of-pocket expenses.

Dislocation allowances, paid when married soldiers are forced to move, are being improved in several ways. Previously, the allowance was paid only when a soldier PCSed. Under the new law, soldiers receive a partial dislocation allowance of \$500 if they're moved involuntarily from gov-

ernment quarters at the government's convenience. The full allowance is generally equivalent to one month's basic allowance for housing.

Another change allows dual-service couples (with no other family members) who are moving into government quarters to get the dislocation allowance, said Stephen Westbrook, director of DOD's Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee.

The previous rules treated

dual-service couples as two separate, single members — and single members are not entitled to the allowance.

A third change allows soldiers to claim the dislocation allowance for moves to their first duty stations. They previously were ineligible. Separation and retirement moves remain ineligible, Westbrook said.

Temporary Lodging Expense payments are designed to cover costs associated with staying in a hotel or other temporary quarters while moving from one duty station to another. The new law increases the daily payment maximum rate from \$110 to \$180, Westbrook said.

The 2002 act doubles the reimbursement rate for pet-quarantine costs when soldiers move to areas that require quarantine.

The new authorization act

also allows soldiers moving from one duty station within the United States to another to ship a second vehicle to their new duty stations.

Westbrook said the government previously reimbursed only a certain amount of the cost a soldier incurred for driving a second car. The new law will pay shipping costs for a second car up to the amount it would have cost to drive the vehicle, he said.

The new law also allows federal workers and service members to keep frequent-flier miles and other promotional benefits airlines offer travelers.

A DOD General Counsel discussion of the frequent-flier policy change and implications is accessible on the Web from the contents page at www.defenselink.mil/dodgc/defense_ethics/index.html. — AFPS

Awards Update

DOD Decides Not to Create Cold War Medal

THE Defense Department announced it will not create a Cold War service medal, and Army officials said any commemorative medals made by private vendors are not authorized for wear on the military uniform.

"Throughout the Cold War years, commanders used a full spectrum of individual, unit and service awards to recognize the achievements and sacrifices of service members," said Brad Loo, deputy director of Officer and Enlisted Management Personnel for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Cold War refers to the period from the 1945 end of World War II until the 1991 disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Former Secretary of Defense William Cohen approved a Cold War Certificate. The certificate recognizes all service members and federal employees who faithfully served in the U.S. military during the Cold War era, Loo said.

Last year an unidentified source caused confusion by sending an e-mail to individuals informing them that a Cold War medal had been approved, and attached a picture of the medal to the e-mail, said Arlette King, chief of policy for the Army Awards Branch.

There are several different designs of medals being offered on the Internet and even at military clothing sales stores.

It is against the law to wear an unauthorized medal on the military uniform, said MSG Kittie Messman, the uniform policy noncommissioned officer for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"Whoever knowingly wears a medal not authorized by Congress ... shall be fined or imprisoned not more than six months, or both," Messman said, "according to Title 18, Section 704, Military Medal or Decorations." — ARNEWS



SSG Gary L. Kieffer

New policies will make moving easier and less costly for service members and their families.



Weekly training sessions keep JSRC soldiers skilled in such common tasks as land navigation.



Duty in Greece

Story by Beth Reece
Photos by Gary L. Kieffer

TWO years ago soldiers based in Larissa, Greece, worked from cardboard "desks" in makeshift offices. Conditions have since improved, but change has come slowly.

"Our lives have gotten better, but progress has come in baby steps," said SSG Sharon Forde, an administrative specialist who has watched her unit grow from a handful to 140 members.

She and fellow pioneer-soldiers have helped found NATO's new Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central. Among military personnel from nine nations, and in a country still warming up to the presence of Americans, they are promoting peace in southern Europe from NATO's only permanent land-component headquarters in the Balkans.

The strain of building their unit from scratch is fading, but soldiers stationed in Larissa can remember when they operated without e-mail, office furniture and the luxuries of home. The facility still lacks a commissary, chapel, post exchange and American doctors, but the soldiers don't grumble.

"We've come to Greece with a lot of motivation and expertise," said SFC John Lomax. "Everybody here contributes to making this a better place to live and work."

Peace and War

The JSRC can be activated to respond to events ranging from fires and earthquakes to combat. In war, the command would take charge of several

ground elements, including a Greek corps and a NATO rapid-reaction force.

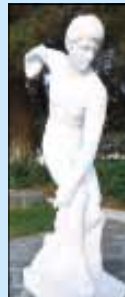
In peace, the soldiers plot defense strategies for northern Greece, fine-tuning their tactical skills through Partnership for Peace exercises that bring together soldiers from some 20 nations. Training focuses on the complexities of escort operations, crowd control, search and rescue, and rules of engagement.

"This is reality. Much of the U.S. military's future role is going to be supporting peace and maintaining order," said LTC Gerd Wilhelm, chief of JSRC's Joint Operations Support Section.

Since peacetime rules of engagement are more restrictive, soldiers must relinquish the "destroy-the-enemy" mentality that is appropriate in wartime, Wilhelm said. "Soldiers obviously have the right to defend themselves, but even in a riot they usually wouldn't be authorized to fire their weapons."

About 10 percent of Larissa's soldiers are regularly deployed to Macedonia or Kosovo to work in planning, intelligence and communications cells. Handfuls have also deployed to Kosovo to lay out telephone and data lines.

SPC Jose Alacan often chauffeurs soldiers and VIPs to Kosovo. Driving in that strife-torn region is a delicate job, he said, recalling incidents when he's had to brave rocks thrown by angry locals. Even the Greek capital, Athens, is now considered dangerous for military drivers and passengers since a British officer was killed there last year.





SGT Luis Lazzara

The Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central, in Larissa, Greece, is home to service members from nine nations.

"No matter where or who I'm driving, passenger safety is in my hands," Alacan said.

The Vital Link

"Communication is vital to NATO leaders. They must communicate in order to understand each other and work effectively together. It's our job to make sure that they can," said MSG Steven Gerding, networks squadron



chief and senior NCO for the JSRC's Allied Signals Group. The ASG operates a range of communication systems — telephones, computers, e-mail, switching networks, data processing and cryptography.

"Sometimes our soldiers have to figure out how the systems work before they've completed training on those systems," Gerding said. "Once we acquire a knowledge base, we pass

"Most people don't know the Army is in Greece until they get orders to come here," said CPT Pete Booker, commander of the JSRC's U.S. Army Element.

it on, but getting started and becoming more familiar with the equipment has been difficult. It's almost like someone just said: 'Here's your new command. Enjoy it.'"

Building and sustaining the current communications framework has been virtually a full-time job, Gerding said, but ASG soldiers have also been looking to the future. Plans call for the Larissa of 2005 to be triple its current size. A proposed four-story building will have spaces for server rooms and telephone distribution points. By then,



Eugenia Duggan keeps an eye on packers as they unload household goods she and her husband, SFC Raymond Duggan, shipped from the U.S.

computer lines will also increase from the current 200 to more than 300.

"A year ago there wasn't a lot happening here. Without us, I believe this headquarters probably couldn't operate," Gerding said. "Americans are great about coming into a place and understanding their role, then getting right down to business."

Making Do

Rule number one: Live like a Greek. Soldiers in Larissa do without the facilities and services usually available on Army installations. They buy clothes and groceries off post, live off post, even pay their bills off post.

"Most people don't know the Army is in Greece until they get orders to come here," said CPT Pete Booker, commander of the JSRC's U.S. Army Element.

There may never be enough soldiers stationed in Larissa to warrant a full-service chapel or movie theater. But the USNSE lightens some burdens with housing referral and administrative support, a shoppette and a small medical clinic.

Greek housing specialists help soldiers find lodging. And while most rents in the area are well within soldiers' maximum allowances, the Greek employees also negotiate costs between renters and buyers.

"We are very remote," Booker said, "but we try to make things as comfortable as possible."

Detergents, greeting cards and American candy bars are among the desired goods available at the base's mini-shoppette, which is closed on weekends and after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Manager Wayne Arnold hopes to eventually triple the size of his business, but he'll still have to send customers off-post for most necessities.

The base's health clinic provides routine medical care. For emergency or dental care, soldiers and families must turn to off-post, TRICARE-approved providers. The good news is that Larissa-based soldiers aren't subject to TRICARE fees and copayments.

Soldiers deploying four hours north to the Macedonian border must detour through the JSRC's regional headquarters in Naples, Italy, for equipment and immunizations.

As in any company headquarters, admin specialists update personnel and training records, handle pay inquiries, monitor performance evaluations, and file such personnel actions as extensions and leave requests.

The USNSE is currently testing a

Technicians SSG Steve Freeman and SPC Eric Morey remove one of JSRC's many computer servers for a diagnostic check.

joint-services admin concept that would allow admin clerks to cross-train on each service's standard operating procedures and formats, so they can answer questions ranging from finance to training requirements for any of the military services.

"NATO has a multinational, multiservice philosophy," Booker said. "We want to act as a cohesive team and be able to help the other services if their admin clerks are on leave or TDY. We're too small a group not to support one another."

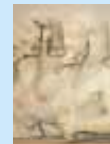
Force Protection

Complacent soldiers who pay no attention to what's going on around them can be prime targets of anti-American aggression, said Navy Chief

Warrant Officer Tom Allyn, who heads the JSRC's force-protection program.

Anyone who represents democracy can become a target, Allyn said. U.S. service members in Greece are barred from wearing uniforms off post, and each carries a government-issue cell phone that links directly to English-speaking law enforcement and medical personnel.

Security guards patrol soldiers' residences twice a day, more when the risks of a terrorist attack increase. Allyn also sends personnel to keep a watchful eye on soldiers travelling around town.



"Later, we'll bring the soldiers in and talk to them about their habits," Allyn said. Then come the snapshots taken with hidden cameras. "It makes people realize how easy it is for terrorists to watch or target



MSG Larry Johnson and a Greek civilian, Kosta Diamantis, transfer a logistics database from laptop to computer.





them," he said.

Are such measures extreme or unnecessarily intimidating?

"There are people out there who would like to kill us, not because of anything we've done, but because of who they think we are," Allyn said.

Common Threads

"We have military members from nine nations here at Larissa — people of diverse cultures and backgrounds — and if we can get them to work around

the table together to solve a problem, then I think we've been exceptionally successful," Wilhelm said.

Compromise is an obvious requirement in a joint environment, where people with varied backgrounds merge. "We get so narrow-minded within our own services. We even have different ideas about how to spend money," said ASG Deputy Commander LTC Karen Dixon. "But a common desire for peace — as well as the facility's close confines — unites those who work here."

"We recognize each other as human beings in spite of our differences," Wilhelm said. "You can't change mindsets overnight, but there wouldn't be so many problems and so much hate in the world if everyone appreciated each other like we do in NATO." □



SFC Phoebe Heidelberg picks up a few things at the AAFES shopette, the only American shopping facility on Larissa's NATO compound.

Family Life in Larissa

THEY miss marshmallows, mayonnaise and bagels. Once called "The Spouses" of Larissa, Greece, today they are the Family Readiness Group, gradually catching on to life in a foreign land.

"People ask me where to find peanut butter or develop film," said Veronika Lancaster. "We all had the same questions when we arrived, so we don't let anyone feel like they're asking something silly."

Families weren't allowed to accompany the first soldiers to arrive at NATO's new Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central. As the unit grew, the JSRC's U.S. National Support Element commander, CPT Pete Booker, began steering soldiers toward two-year, family accompanied tours.

But setting up house in Larissa hasn't been easy. Spouses have had to culti-

vate skills they haven't needed on other, more "Americanized" overseas installations.

"We have to show people how to make it in a place where nobody speaks our language. Something as simple as grocery shopping is very different here than it is back home, where you know what everything is and can read the ingredients," said FRG member Teresa Booker.

She recalls when a search for vanilla pudding seemed more like a scavenger hunt. "Who would think that the package would have an ear of corn on it?" she said.

Isolation connects people in odd ways — like when Larissa's small shopette stocks a new item. "When something new comes in we all call each other up. But we always remind each other that we have to share, so we take only one," said Kathy Swartwood.

In the beginning, when dependents were few, boredom was the big joke. They'd say, "Call me anytime. It's not like I'll be doing anything." But more than 100 dependents now live in Larissa, Lancaster said, and none of them sits around sipping coffee.

"As soon as new people adjust, they start asking what they can do to help everybody else, whether it's with

child care or just showing newcomers where to go," Lancaster said. "We've become family, and that makes us all feel comfortable here. It doesn't matter so much anymore that this is a remote assignment."

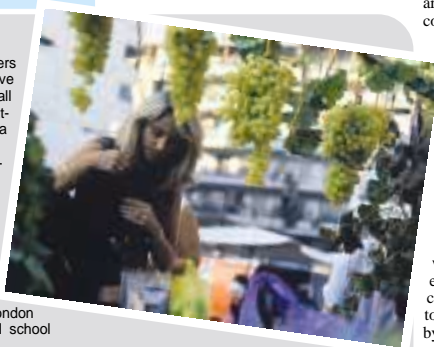
Children have their own adjustments to make. The Department of Defense school offers only kindergarten through 8th grade, and is broken down into three classrooms — kindergarten through 2nd grade, 3rd through 5th grades and 6th through 8th grades. After 8th grade, parents may send their children to boarding schools in London or to Pinewood, an international school located two hours north of Larissa.

Though the school in Larissa is open to all nationalities, classes are taught in English. Principal Don Christensen believes the multi-age environment gives students a broad tolerance for other opinions and cultural mannerisms.

"It's very different from going to school in the states, where differences are only marginal," he said. "Here, the students are so diverse, but they enjoy interacting with one another."

Babies are also welcome in Larissa although there are no American doctors present to deliver them. MAJ Tom and Suzanna Langowski didn't know they were having a baby until they'd arrived in Greece.

"We were nervous about having a Greek doctor, but it didn't take us long to realize



Kathy Swartwood buys grapes at one of Greece's many outdoor markets.

Exploring Greece's Past and Present

Story by Beth Reece
Photos by Gary L. Kieffer

If life is a game, the Greeks play it well. The Olympics, drama, music, art, mythology, philosophy — all were important in ancient Greece. And life in this Mediterranean land is still a contest of what to see and do first, of whether to explore history or find refuge in slow-paced mountain towns.

"Where else can you watch a live performance in a 2,000-year-old amphitheater?" said Jennifer Foster, the director of morale, welfare and recreation for soldiers assigned to NATO's Joint Sub-Regional Command, South Central, in Larissa.

Marble and bronze relics remain as proof of lavish temples and classic architecture. Timeworn villages still come alive with flashy markets and vendors peddling produce, fresh bread, seafood, clothes and rugs.

Places

Where Socrates once roamed, SFC John Lomax has followed. He's visited Athens 10 times in 15 months, and has also toured Delphi, Thessaloniki and the Greek islands.

"When I first heard soldiers were needed in Greece, I knew I wanted to volunteer," he said. "I've enjoyed everything about this country — even just sitting in the town square watching people walk by."

Athens seduces visitors with the grandeur of its ancient architecture. At the peak of the 2,500-year-old Acropolis, the Parthenon sits solidly in place. The temple was built to house a gold and ivory statue of the goddess Athena, believed to be the protector of Greek cities.

SPC Jose Alacan marvels at the ancient architecture and is fascinated by Greek culture. He relishes the hot summers and mild winters and knows that, with beaches to surf and mountains to ski, residents and tourists alike have the best of two worlds.



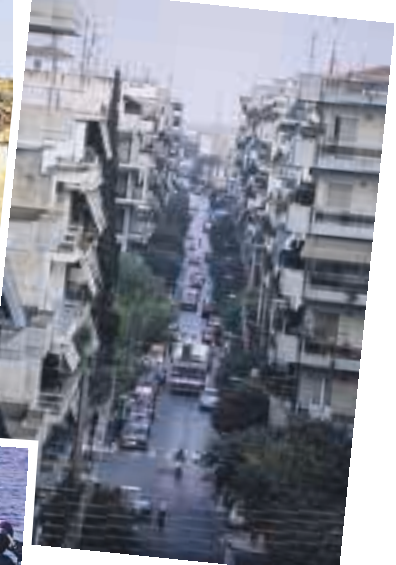
Meteora is a "stone forest" that has been home to monasteries since the 11th century, when the only way up the steep inclines was by ladder or baskets.

So packed are the coasts in summertime that bodies and umbrellas hide the white sand. SSG Samara Pitre abandons the beach for the deep, blue sea. "This is something I've always wanted to do," Pitre said, strapping on scuba gear for an hour's adventure.

An other-worldly calm pervades the "stone forest" of Meteora, an oasis for Orthodox monks since the 11th century. Serene monasteries sit atop steep rocks, which monks once ascended by ladder or in baskets but visitors may now



Godparents Veronika Lancaster and Athanasios Mitsoglou look on as Navy Lt. Cmdr. Philip B. Creider blesses Ariana Langowski, the first American baby born in Larissa.



(Top) Ancient ruins throughout Greece remain a testimony of the country's glorious past. (Above) The sea surrounds Greece. It's white sandy beaches attract tourists and natives throughout the country's steamy summers.



The cradle of Western civilization, Greece still clings to its traditions, especially in mountain-side towns that are remote from bustling cities.



Scuba diving is a favorite pastime for soldiers stationed in Larissa, which is just 45 minutes from the nearest beach.

climb by car or on foot.

Postcards are as rare as tacky souvenirs in the cotton town of Larissa. Athens is a four-hour drive south and Thessaloniki is two hours north. The coast is 45 minutes away.

The absence of tourism is perhaps one of Larissa's greatest attractions, as it provides those who do visit with a more realistic taste of authentic Greece.

The MWR office in Larissa sponsors tours to Meteora, Thessaloniki, Delphi and various islands.

Trips are also planned to bowling alleys, movie theaters and amusement parks.

"Americans here truly want to experience what's outside the gate. Being comfortable with the language definitely makes it easier," said Foster.

MWR offers Greek classes for both beginners and advanced students.

The Greek alphabet can intimidate English speakers who are used to the grammatical rules of their native language. But young Greeks study English in school, and they often welcome the chance to test their skills by giving directions and translating menus for confused tourists.

"But what's the point of going to another country if you're not going to relish it?" said LTC Gerd Wilhelm. The single parent passes warm, slow evenings at Larissa's outdoor cafés, joined by his 20-year-old daughter, who was so enchanted during a visit to Greece that she decided to stay.

Locals still indulge in leisurely, late-night strolls, and linger for hours

in outdoor cafes. Families are priorities, and work is a trivial concern when shop owners lock their doors between 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. daily, reopening only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Food

Supper is a twilight affair in Greece. Tablecloths and menus are usually not arranged before 8 p.m., and doors rarely open before 8:30.

"If you've finished eating before 9 p.m. it's obvious you're American," said CPT Pete Booker. "The Greeks definitely like to take their time over dinner. It's a social event for them."

Souvlaki, grilled chicken and beef

shish-kabobs are Greek specialties. Tzatziki — an American favorite — is a blend of yogurt, cucumber and garlic usually slathered over bread. Olive lovers will find a haven in Greece, where heavy bowls of the green fruit grace most dinner tables.

Although local supermarkets do have small American-food sections, Greeks cook from scratch, so shelves are devoid of such packaged foods as mashed potatoes and macaroni and cheese. "The Greeks seem to think that our diet consists of ranch dressing, peanut butter and pancake mix," Booker said.

Ouzo — a licorice liqueur — is the national drink. Most towns have a local version so intoxicating it's usually diluted in water. And Metaxa, a fiery

brandy, is popular throughout the country.

People

Patience is a virtue for travelers who have yet to adopt Greece's leisure pace. Tardiness is customary, as is the inclination to share, said SSG Sharon Forde.

When Forde's Greek neighbors come to her door, it's often with fruit or a hot pie. "And every time they go to the market, they ask if I need anything or if I'd like to go along," she said.

Veronika Lancaster had lived in Larissa less than a month when a girl she had spoken with only a few times

(Above) A typical street in modern Greece. (Above left) Visitors to Meteora experience the quiet beauty of 60,000-year-old rock formations, atop which monks are known to stay for months in meditation and prayer.

at the local florist surprised her with a gift and a note handwritten in English.

"She wrote that she really enjoyed our friendship. That was touching beyond anything I ever expected," Lancaster said. "They're such accommodating people. If you're looking for something downtown and can't find it, they'll take you to the place you need to go to get it."

Though MSG Larry Johnson has lived in Europe off and on for almost 10 years, Greece has renewed his sense of adventure. He can't decide whether it's the warmth of the people, the tangible traces of history, or the chance to slow down — but within weeks of his arrival, Johnson had fallen in love with the country.

"I never expected Greece to be so quaint and so friendly," he said. "My wife and I are going to love living here." □



The Verminator

Story and Photos by Michael Tolzmann

FRANCO Lidron is no heartless killer, although the squeamish have been known to scream while watching him work and the more bravehearted often marvel at his cunning and ruthless ways. Still, the residents of Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, never hesitate to call him when they encounter certain intruders or see a dangerous prowler in the neighborhood.

Snakes, rodents, insects, bats and stray cats often seek out the Army post, and every crevice or opening is a welcome invitation to be exploited.

Lidron finds great interest in these creepy creatures, but delivers swift eviction or eradication when that residency causes conflicts between man and "beast."

"For me these intruders are a normal part of things, but for most people an encounter with a bat or snake can be a big problem," said Lidron, post entomologist at the 22nd Area Support Group Environmental Management Office. "I just put the animal in a box, remove it and release it somewhere else, just like that — problem solved."

"I love this job," Lidron said, "because it's completely different from anything else, even though people often tell me they couldn't stand it!"

He said part of the job's appeal is the satisfaction it brings when he has eased someone's anxiety. One example he gave involved an unwanted visit by an arachnid.

"One day a woman called me and screamed, 'Please help me! I was in my bathtub and felt something drop on my foot.' It was a scorpion," he said. "She was scared because she thought there was a nest of them. But scorpions are usually solitary creatures, so I showed her the small hole in the ceiling where the scorpion had entered, probably attracted to the light."

Public affairs specialist Michael Tolzmann works for U.S. Army, Europe's, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer.



Franco Lidron teaches Vicenza students about the variety of bug species common in Northern Italy. Here he displays a German wasp hive.



Lidron uses a live "hissing cockroach" to help students overcome their fear of insects.

Another time, Lidron was called to remove a large black snake.

"This type is aggressive, but not poisonous," he said. "I looked into the storage shed where they said the snake had gone, and the shed was full of stuff. I asked for help to clear it out, but the owners said: 'No way, the snake is in there!'"

Entomologist Wayne Patton, who works for Vicenza's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, said Lidron's ability to work calmly when others are panicking is one reason he's such an asset to the community.

"Trained pest-management specialists like Franco often perform difficult pest-control operations that require special skills and patience," Patton said. "Without well-trained personnel, our facilities could become hazardous environments or be overrun with vermin. Pest management has evolved into a science that requires an understanding of how to balance the needs of man and nature."

Lidron began working at the Environmental Office in May 1998, but has worked for the Army at Caserma Ederle since 1980. He studied agriculture and entomology in college, but his first job with the Army was cooking hamburgers at the Vicenza snack bar. Some 18 years of Army employment passed before he began working in his current profession.



Students react to a large wasp from Lidron's collection.

"For me these intruders are a normal part of things, but for most people an encounter with a bat or snake can be a big problem."



Lidron and a Vicenza Department of Public Works employee install a "bat house" at Caserma Ederle.

Lidron's approach to pest control is to ensure the health and safety of the community as he protects the environment. He's developed programs to remove stray cats that have been known to carry disease, and to install bat houses around the community. The traps are animal-safe, so that family pets or the occasional wandering hedgehog aren't injured if caught. The bat houses accommodate the insect-eating mammals, yet keep them away from housing areas where they might seek shelter and eventually spread disease.

Lidron is also very sensitive to the use of pesticides, an attitude he developed as a child. At age seven, he caught dragonflies and any other insects he could find.

"My love for insects is from years ago," Lidron said. "One of my teachers had a fantastic collection of bugs. He taught me how to collect and preserve bugs, and I've continued to enjoy this hobby all my life."

Lidron uses his collection during visits to schools to teach children the value of insects and the variety of life that is around them. He believes that by increasing a child's awareness of insects he can lessen the fear of them, and maybe help children to better appreciate the world around them. □

The Army's FutureCar

Story by Dennis Ward and Gil High
Photos by Gil High



BEFORE the event, Dennis Wend predicted that SmarTruck "could be, hands-down, the show-stealer at this year's Detroit Auto Show." As it turned out, the director of the Army's National Automotive Center may have underestimated the impact that the NAC's concept truck would have on both the news media and the viewing public.

Following the black-tie ceremony opening the Society of Automotive Engineers' annual convention in January, reporter Anita Lienert told Detroit News readers that SmarTruck was among the show's "most dramatic media launches."

Information Week reporter Sandra Swanson characterized the Army prototype vehicle as "a Ford F-350 pickup but with a little extra technology and testosterone. It includes oil-slick dispensers, night vision capability and onboard computers, plus intimidating features such as pepper spray that shoots up to 12 feet and high-voltage door handles designed to

Dennis Ward is the acting public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command.

Reporter Sandra Swanson characterized the Army's SmarTruck as "a Ford F-350 pickup but with a little extra technology and testosterone."



In operation, SmartTruck is 90-percent defensive, 10-percent lethal and 100-percent excitement, NAC officials said.

temporarily stun intruders."

When the show opened to the public the following morning, traffic was slow to build, due to the Army display's location away from the main floor where visitors rushed to see the newest models from the major manufacturers plus such exotic marques as Lamborghini, Aston Martin and Ferrari. But well before noon, the crowds were gathering to see what one reporter had described as "a pick-up that would leave James Bond's cars standing."

One colorful display explored innovative steel manufacturing applications that are lighter, stronger and more resistant to corrosion than conventional steel.

More Than James Bond

In fact, with its hidden body armor and bulletproof glass, the SmartTruck is not a glitzy new vehicle for 007, but a platform for NAC to test several antiterrorist and homeland-defense systems. The concept technology includes blinding lights, smoke and detection devices, and a roof-mounted grenade launcher and laser weapon.

Another attraction that drew people to the SmartTruck exhibit was a seven-minute film dramatization of the vehicle's potential value in today's urban jungles. In the video, SmartTruck safely and quickly transported a soldier carrying an embassy pouch through hostile demonstrators and more aggressive saboteurs.

In operation, SmartTruck is 90-percent defensive, 10-percent lethal and 100-percent excitement, NAC officials said, but much of its "weaponry" is only experimental, for now.

They also conceded that the SmartTruck's spy-game appeal may have overshadowed the other important automotive initiatives the Army was unveiling.

A Partnership In Motion

The other Army exhibits focused on automotive engineering breakthroughs resulting from cooperative research efforts between the NAC and its industry and academia partners. In all, 15 automotive equipment manufacturers and four academic research centers participated in the technical developments showcased by NAC and were recognized within the show's displays.

NAC-partnered technologies exhibited at the show included a state-of-the-art wiring system, new steel manufacturing and applications processes, and an "electronic drive" transmission being developed in partnership with General Motors' Allison Transmission Division.



The SmartTruck's sophisticated onboard computer systems enhance its occupants' communications capabilities, situational awareness and personal security.



A seven-minute video highlighting some of the SmartTruck's capabilities kept viewers on the edge of their seats.

A Greener Army

NAC officials said the transmission may eventually surface as the "techno-gem-sleeper" of the entire auto show.

Exhibitors explained that the value of electronic drive is that the transmission virtually takes control of the operating efficiency of its mated engine. The benefit to the automotive industry and consumers, they said, is that no matter which manufacturer provides the engine, the resultant power train will achieve a 60-percent improvement in fuel economy and a 90-percent reduction in pollutant emissions while maximizing the engine's operational efficiencies.

The transmission is already in use in select military trucks and in municipal busses now operating in several communities. Focusing on the Army's transformation efforts, exhibitors said the transmission is also earmarked for use in the Interim Armored Vehicle.

Benefits to Consumers

Billed as "next-generation electrical architecture," the electrical wiring system prototype at the show was developed in partnership with DaimlerChrysler and Oakland University's Product Development and Manufacturing Center.

The wiring system was demonstrated on an otherwise standard-looking Jeep Cherokee, but the system itself pushes the envelope in on-board diagnostics, the NAC exhibitors said. The new technology benefits consumers and the auto industry alike, they said, because it can provide owners, dealers and manufacturers with real-time monitoring of every component within the vehicle's frame, with the exception of the chassis.

For auto owners, the wiring system will provide the confidence and security of knowing all systems are up and running at their optimum each time the car is used, demonstrators

said. Should a part begin showing signs of failure or if systemic problems surface in similar cars, owners would be notified immediately of both the problem and its recommended repairs, followed by an invitation to bring the vehicle to an authorized repair and maintenance facility.

Application of the system to military equipment, once matured, should be obvious, NAC officials said. It would provide battlefield commanders with total, real-time oversight of their armor and wheeled fleets throughout the critical stages of combat.

An NAC-industry partnership with Ford on display at the show explored innovative steel manufacturing applications that deliver more than 20 years of corrosion protection, reduce overall vehicle weight, and increase a vehicle's strength and structural integrity. This technology is being applied to the Ford IMPACT program and will become available for Ford's F-150 SuperCrew trucks by the 2005 production year, exhibitors said. □



The new "electronic drive" transmission being developed by GM can improve a vehicle's fuel efficiency by as much as 60 percent.

Army Announces Environmental Awards

The vast expanse of central Texas yields 340 square miles for an armored training installation on which the Army can hone its warfighting skills. Fifty-two battalions call Fort Hood home. Most soldiers who have been there, when they think of Fort Hood, also think of such proud units as III Corps, the 1st Cavalry Division and 4th Infantry Div.

Within this atmosphere of intense military operations, with more than 130,000 acres in use for combat training, **John D. Cornelius** developed a natural resources program that has gained him recognition throughout the wildlife-conservation community. He created a sanctuary for some of Fort Hood's smallest creatures, and in doing so preserved the land the Army defends.

Because of his environmental program, Cornelius will receive the fiscal year 2001 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award for individual natural resources conservation during an April 30 Pentagon ceremony. A panel of civilian and Army natural-resource experts, including representatives from

The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Services, judged this year's competitors for the award.

"John Cornelius is at the forefront of endangered-species program management, and has been the driving force behind Fort Hood's innovative endangered species program," said Jeanette Gallihugh, USFWS biologist and judge on this year's awards panel.

"He has developed partnerships and cooperative efforts to create an effective program at the fort that enhances training capabilities," Gallihugh said. Fort Hood's terrain is characterized by valleys, buttes and mesas that support a variety of birds in oak-juniper, mixed and grassland habitats. Three of these resident birds are on the endangered-species list — the golden-cheeked warbler, the black-capped vireo and the bald eagle.

Through projects such as habitat modeling and regeneration of habitat by fire, Cornelius'

successful recovery program has made Fort Hood the largest single landowner and manager for the warbler and vireo species.

As a result of monitoring breeding density, productivity, nest parasitism and population, Fort Hood has been able to lift most restrictions on its western training areas.

"John Cornelius has developed a program for the recovery of the black-capped vireo and the golden-cheeked warbler that allows for the conservation of our resources and the continuation of the Army's mission," said Jim Bailey, a judging panel member and biologist at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"The Secretary of the Army Environmental Award is a significant win for the environmental stakeholders because it demonstrates the bridge between the environmental and military communities," Bailey said. "But the public should care about this award because Cornelius' leadership in endangered-species management sets the standard for the entire field," he said.

Each year, Army environmental professionals from around the world compete for Department of the Army recognition in natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, pollution prevention and environmental restoration.

This year the Army will present nine awards — five installation, two individual and 2 team — during the April Pentagon ceremony.

The best in the Army advance to compete with winners from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Defense Logistics Agency for the Secretary of Defense Environmental Security Award, to be presented at the Pentagon May 1.

The FY 2001 Secretary of the Army Environmental Award Winners

■ Natural-Resources Conservation

Winning installation of less than 10,000 acres: Fort Eustis, Va.

Winning individual: John Cornelius, Fort Hood, Texas

■ Cultural Resources Management

Winning installation: Fort Benning, Ga.

■ Environmental Quality

Winning nonindustrial installation: Fort Irwin, Calif.

Winning team: Fort Lee, Va.

■ Pollution Prevention

Winning industrial installation: Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Mo.

Winning Weapons System Acquisition Team: Bradley Environmental Management Team.

■ Environmental Restoration

Winning installation: Fort Stewart, Ga.

Winning individual: George Gricius, U.S. Army Reserve Command

And the winners are...



Dave Beckmann



Environmental Photo Winners

ENVIRONMENTAL Front proudly recognizes the photographers who provided images illustrating the Army's efforts to improve and protect the environments in which we work and train. Contributions this year included images of natural and cultural resource stewardship and community outreach at Fort McCoy, Wis., and in Fort Worth, Texas.

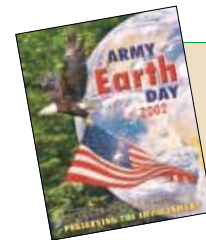
The following contributors will receive letters of congratulation from the commander of the U.S. Army Environmental Center, and their photographs



Judy Marsicano



Jason Tish



Order Extra Earth Day Posters

THIS issue of Soldiers should include the 2002 Army Earth Day poster. If the poster is missing or you want extra copies, contact the U.S. Army Environmental Center at <http://aec.army.mil> or by e-mail at deborah.elliott@aec.apgea.army.mil.



The Army is helping to preserve the quality of life on Earth by doing its part to protect natural resources.

Please send your contributions or questions to Cynthia Houston, National Outreach Team Leader, U.S. Army Environmental Center, 5179 Hoadley Road, Attn.: SFIM-AEC-PA, Bldg. 4415, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5401, or e-mail Environmental.Front@aec.apgea.army.mil. Houston can be reached by phone at (410) 436-1270 or (DSN) 584-1270.

Summer School for Officers

Story by MSG Bob Haskell

Greg Zuercher seemed stuck in a sort of no-man's land. He was a 43-year-old specialist and a small-vehicle mechanic in the Kansas Army National Guard. He had held that E-4 pay grade in the Air and Army Guard for more than six years. He was also too old, according to conventional wisdom, to improve his prospects by becoming an officer.

Zuercher,

however, marches to the beat of a different drum. He runs up to 400 miles and hammers out as many as 50,000 push-ups and sit-ups every year. So he was determined to join the officer corps as a second lieutenant, following the fastest road to that objective that the Army National Guard offers.

He was among 174 Army Guard enlisted men and women from 25 states following the fast track last summer. They were striving to become officers in eight weeks through an Army-accredited Officer Candidate School run by the South Dakota Army National Guard at a former cavalry post north of Rapid City.

Those who made it through the final four weeks of demanding field training in South Dakota and at Fort Lewis, Wash., graduated Aug. 11.

"I didn't want to go

through life wondering 'what if?'" said Zuercher, explaining that he had quit ROTC while attending Kansas State University. "This is fulfilling a dream that I have had for a long time."

The Army Guard's Regional Training Institute at historic Fort Meade in western South Dakota has for three summers now given many younger men and women the chance to fulfill similar dreams. It is also helping to solve the Guard's nationwide shortage of junior officers.

It is the first of the Army Guard's seven regional OCS programs to offer the fast-track, eight-week commissioning option for Guard members from the 54 states and territories. Pennsylvania plans to start a similar program next year at Fort Indiantown Gap, according to LTC Christopher Cleaver, that state's National Guard spokesman.

The Army has accredited the South Dakota program for the next three years, said Arizona Army Guard MAJ Dawson Dopp, the institute's executive officer for part of this summer.

That's important to potential officers who didn't earn a commission through ROTC or attendance at West Point or a state military college and now don't have 14 months to spend in one of the Guard's traditional officer programs or 14 weeks to devote to Army OCS at Fort Benning, Ga.

The South Dakota program appeals to older Guard soldiers who must get their commissions by their 31st year, or by their 35th year if they get an age waiver from their state adjutant general, Dopp said. Older candidates, like Zuercher, need special permission from the National Guard Bureau.

All candidates must have completed basic training and have 90 semester hours of college to be commissioned.

The South Dakota institute's 70-member staff, including 18 black-capped tactical trainers, or TACs, is

MSG Bob Haskell works for the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office in Arlington, Va.



Officer candidates Morris McLaughlin (left) and Matthew Jonkey used every minute, even in the chow line, to read and review material.



MSG Bob Haskell

six-week officer candidate school in Knoxville, Tenn., for 30 years. The Army Guard's considerably newer consolidated program appeals to men and women whose lives are crowded with other responsibilities.

Thirty-year-old Michele Ashby, for example, is a single mom who this fall began her senior year at Louisiana State University. Her son and her military career

are most important to her life, said Ashby, who spent three years on active duty.

Being able to earn her commission during two months in the summer meant she didn't have to take time from her son or her courses when college resumed in the fall, and that she will be able to get her degree this spring, Ashby said.

Spending eight weeks as an officer candidate, she added, has also helped her improve as a soldier.

"I needed to get my gung-ho back," said Ashby, who left active duty in 1992 and joined the Army Guard the following year. "I didn't expect the intensity of the first week, but it got me back to where I needed to be. I knew I would not go home, so I had to pull something from myself."

After failing her first land-navigation test, for example, she found six of seven stations and completed that course in 78 minutes on her second try. She passed with flying colors and began to believe that she, too, would earn her commission.

Two things seem to work for the officer candidates who have made it to the phase conducted at Fort Meade.

The candidates now get to tell the

TACs what they believe they must do to achieve success, rather than always being told what is expected of them, said CPT Teresa Wendt, a seasoned TAC officer.

"We don't just ridicule the candidates. We have to tell them what the teaching point is if we get in a candidate's face," she said.

"Their leadership evaluation reports emphasize their progress, not their potential," Wendt said. "If they didn't have potential, they wouldn't be here."

And Fort Meade is a stimulating place to learn the lessons of leadership.

It was established as a 7th Cavalry post in 1878 to keep the peace among settlers, gold miners and the Sioux people, who considered that region prime hunting ground.

It is reputed to be the first place in the country where "The Star Spangled Banner" was played every evening during retreat ceremonies. That tradition began in 1892, 39 years before Congress designated the song as the U.S. national anthem.

The Army moved out of Fort Meade in 1944, and the Veterans Administration has taken over the installation that now serves as a military post only during the few weeks in the summer that the Officer Candidate School is conducted there.

"I'm proud that the OCS program is here for at least a few weeks each year," said Chuck Rambow, director of the Fort Meade Museum. "That makes this a military post again." □



Identifying terrain features was one of the lessons that officer candidates, including the Virginia Guard's Ronald Johnson, used to master the great outdoors.

TAC officers also felt the pain of a 12-mile road march for OCS candidates at Fort Meade, S.D.



SPC William Schneider

Focus on People

Compiled by Heike Hasenauer



Janotta (above) and Alden: Recruiters of the Year.



THE U.S. Army Recruiting Command announced its active-duty and Reserve recruiters of the year for 2001 during its Annual Leaders Training Conference banquet in Nashville, Tenn. They are **SSG Steven Janotta** from the Phoenix, Ariz., Recruiting Battalion and **SSG Charles Alden** from the Montgomery Recruiting Bn. in Alabama.

The two bested more than 8,000 Army recruiters worldwide. In 2001, both earned their recruiter rings — symbols of recruiting excellence and the second-highest award presented to recruiters — and consistently surpassed established recruiting standards.

Janotta enlisted 41 recruits last year, helping his recruiting station meet its goal and rank number one in the battalion, as well as in the 6th U.S. Army Recruiting Brigade.

Janotta enlisted in 1988 as an infantryman and served in Georgia, North Carolina, New York, Panama and Haiti before being selected for recruiting duty in 1999.

"Recruiting has given me an opportunity to share my experiences with others and help them to have some of the same great experiences," he said. "It's also made me more of a 'people' person and helped build my character."

Alden, a former active-duty infantryman who has been a recruiter since 1998, was one of the top five Reserve recruiters in his battalion in 2000 and ex-

ceeded his recruiting tasking by 60 percent in 2001.

"Recruiting has taught me that the community is full of people with diverse interests and needs," he said. Being able to listen to and understand those needs and turn peoples' dreams into realities is a sobering and satisfying experience, he added.

Alden, who recruits in Hoover, Ala., admitted it is sometimes a daunting and overwhelming experience having young people put so much trust in his career guidance. They depend on the recruiter to walk them through a maze of options that will cause them to make a life-altering decision, he said. — *Julia Bobick, U.S. Army Recruiting Command Public Affairs Office*

SFC **Ronnie Raikes**, among the first soldiers wounded in Afghanistan while fighting the war on terrorism, and **SFC Michael McElhiney**, who lost one arm in the war and had the other severely damaged, were among the invited guests at President George W. Bush's State of the Union address.

Raikes and McElhiney, both members of the Fort Campbell, Ky.,-based 5th Special Forces Group's Operational Detachment Alpha, were wounded on Dec. 5 when a 2,000-pound U.S. bomb missed its target and landed 100 yards from their position, north of Kandahar. Three special forces soldiers were killed and 19 others were injured.

Also attending the event were the unit's **CPT Jason Amerine**, who represented Operation Enduring Freedom veterans; **Renae Chapman**, the widow of **SFC Nathan Chapman**, the first American soldier killed by enemy fire in Afghanistan; and **SPC Angela Ortega**. Ortega, a member of the Military District of Washington Engineer Company at Fort Belvoir, Va., helped shore up the timbers immediately following the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon so that rescue workers could more easily reach the wounded and dead.

Other guests at the address included Hamid Karzai, Afghanistan's interim leader, and flight attendants who prevented alleged shoe-bomber Richard Reid from blowing up a jetliner during a flight from Paris to Miami. — *Heike Hasenauer*

SPC **Jill Bakken** steered her two-

Raikes: (With Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki): Guest of President George W. Bush.



"Recruiting has taught me that the community is full of people with diverse interests and needs."

woman bobsled to a gold medal victory Feb. 19, winning the first women's bobsled competition ever featured in the Olympic Games.

Bakken, of the Utah Army National Guard and a member of the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program, drove herself and civilian Vonetta Flowers into the pages of Olympic history.

The duo's two-run total time of 1 minute, 37.76 seconds, at the Utah Olympic Park easily beat the two German teams that walked away with the silver and bronze medals.

The better-known American team of driver Jean Racine and brakeman Gea Johnson finished fifth. Johnson, hindered by an injured left hamstring, couldn't push her sled as hard or as fast as she needed to for her team to gain the gold or any other Olympic honor.

"We were the other team," said Flowers. "It's amazing that we won. The competition was tough; we definitely had our work cut out for us."

"I just knew that I had to put in two solid, clean runs," added Bakken, who made a comeback from her own significant medical problems, including back surgery and two knee operations within the past four years.

"I knew we had to have a good start, and I knew we were going to do really well on that," she said.

The award ceremony was a golden moment for two other National Guard soldiers, coaches Bill Tavares, from New York, and Tuffy Latour, from Vermont. The two, also members of the WCAP, coached the women's teams.

Head coach Tavares, a three-time Olympian, competed in the luge during the 1992 Winter Games. Latour was the driving coach. His grandfather was a bobsled driver for the United States in the 1948 Games.

History was in the winning team's corner.

Flowers became the first black American to ever

win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics. The bobsledding medal was the 21st overall for the U.S. team, whose goal was 20 medals when the Salt Lake City Games began on Feb. 8.

Bakken and Flowers gave the United States its first Olympic bobsled medal since 1956, when the U.S. men claimed the bronze.

COL Willie Davenport, chief of the National Guard Bureau's Sports Program and a five-time Olympian who won a gold medal in the high hurdles

Robert Trubia



Bakken: Celebrating victory.

during the 1968 Summer Games in Mexico City, said: "This is proof that we are one Army. We come together in war, and we come together in athletics. This is also proof of how strong the National Guard is in athletics."

Bakken joined the Utah Guard's 115th Engineer Group headquarters in Draper in March 2000, before joining the WCAP. "She went from boot camp back to bobsledding," said her mother, Peggy Smith.

Bakken competed in the first official Olympic bobsledding race in her hometown of Park City, Utah. About 40 members of her family, including her mother and older brother Joel, and 10 family friends witnessed her gold-medal performance. — MSG Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau PAO

Bakken and Flowers gave the United States its first Olympic bobsled medal since 1956.



Postmarks *Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt*

From Army Posts Around the World

Mindy Anderson



SPC Travis DeBois of the 260th QM Bn. at Hunter Army Airfield washes his clothes in the new barracks' laundry room.

Mindy Anderson



SPC Hiram Cebollero, also of HHC, 260th QM Bn., enjoys a favorite program on the big-screen television in the new barracks' day room.

Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Barracks Renovation Improves Quality of Life

A \$63 million barracks construction program has improved the quality of life for soldiers at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.

Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Savannah District, Phase I was recently completed at a cost of more than \$12 million.

"Our planners listened to the soldiers and incorporated

the functional aspects of design to provide a durable facility that meets their expectations," said COL Roger A. Gerber, commander of the Savannah District.

Phase I included three, three-story, new-standard-design barracks, each housing 48 soldiers. The

barracks' suites each have two private bedrooms, and a shared kitchenette and bathroom. The soldier community building in the complex has a laundry room, billiards room, recreation room, storage room and a small kitchenette. The exterior includes a courtyard with picnic tables, barbecue grills and basketball courts.

"Soldiers want to work for an Army that they feel is looking out for their best interests," said LTC Gerald Davie, garrison commander, Hunter Army Air-

field. "If they feel that's the case, they're going to be more loyal and more productive—it just makes sense."

SFC Curtis Thomas, barracks NCOIC for the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, said providing adequate housing sends a strong message to soldiers, especially "first-termers," that the Army will take care of them.

"Quality of life is really important to the young soldiers," he said. "New soldiers come here and they can't believe they'll be living in these barracks."

Soldiers new to Hunter AAF may be impressed with the renovated barracks, but soldiers who lived in the 1950s-era "pinwheel" barracks especially appreciate the improved quality of life.

"These new barracks are awesome," said SPC Travis DeBois, of the 416th Transportation Company. "I really like the laundry room—we only had two washers and two dryers for each floor in the old barracks, now we have 24 to choose from."

"A high level of expectation has now been set for these young soldiers," said Davie. "When they leave here, they'll expect the same standards or better."

The barracks project is scheduled to be completed in June, 2003. — *Mindy Anderson, USACE Savannah District Public Affairs Office*

Fort Riley, Kan.

Prairie Post Gets TV Show

A NEW television program designed to get people "In Step With Fort Riley" recently began airing on the local Fox network station.

"In Step With Fort Riley" is the first program of its kind, according to Gary Skidmore, the post's command information officer. "This is something new for the Army and for the television networks."

Each week, the program will bring a slice-of-life view of the prairie post into thousands of homes. Future planned segments of "In Step" include news updates that are important to soldiers, family members and retirees in the area—such as facts about the post and its history, interviews with military leaders and one-on-one discussions with those who provide the many services available at Fort Riley.

The program will also spotlight many activities, from recreation to education and military training, that take place on the installation.

"Additionally, the program will provide a means of communicating weekly with the public on issues that require immediate exposure to neighboring



Gary Skidmore, Fort Riley's command information officer, interviews MG Thomas F. Metz, the first guest to appear on "In Step With Fort Riley."

James Pritchett

communities," said Skidmore.
— *Christie Vanover, Fort Riley PAO*

Salta, Argentina

Exercise Helps Forge Future Peacekeepers

NEARLY 570 U.S. troops, along with armed forces members from eight Latin American countries, gathered in Argentina for Exercise Cabañas 2001.

"It's the largest joint-nation exercise held in Latin America," said LTC Nicolas Britto, exercise spokesman with the U.S. Special Operations Command, South. "The exercise objective is to train the joint military forces for future United Nations peacekeeping duties."

Participating in the exercise were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Mexico and Columbia sent observers.

"This exercise is the last



Argentine army Lt. Col. Julio de la Cruz discusses airdrop operations with representatives of the eight nations that participated in Exercise Cabañas 2001.

phase of a year-long effort," said Britto. "This is where the participants test that training."

During the exercise the troops dealt with everything

from demining operations to resolving conflicts between warring factions.

"If what these troops learned here about dealing with

mines saves one life, then the money spent on this training exercise will have been worth it," he said.

"The situations we put the troops through are complex," said Air Force Col. O.G. Mannon, USSOCS deputy commander. "We make the tests hard because U.N. duty can be tough, and unexpected things happen all the time."

He said the exercise required close communication and cooperation among participants. And in a region where the politics of one nation sometimes differ with those of another, or where some of the participants have fought each other in the past, joint training helps promote understanding among the nations' militaries.

"The way they've worked together here," said Mannon, "is exactly how they'll have to work when they do it for real at some U.N. outpost." — *Master Sgt. Louis A. Arana-Barradas, Air Force News*

Fort Richardson, Alaska

Alaskans Display National Pride

HUNDREDS of students from schools at Fort Richardson, Alaska, stood side by side to form the word "proud" as their teachers held up a large American flag on Buckner Field.

Alaska National Guard CPT Bryan Keese, the organizer of the event, said the students had a two-fold message. "They wanted to honor those who continue fighting against drug and alcohol abuse, and those who were killed and wounded as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks."

He said the Alaska National Guard has been involved with



Ursa Minor and Ursa Major school students display their American spirit while their teachers hold up an American flag.

the Drug Demand Reduction Program for almost 10 years. The program helps educate young people and their parents on the value of healthy lifestyles.

"Alcohol and drugs are the biggest killers of those under

the age of 25," Keese said. "Drug use has actually increased over the past year after a steady decline over the past 20 years." — *Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs*

The U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command's Soldiers Systems Center in Natick, Mass., is the Army's one-stop soldier-support organization. It is responsible for researching, developing, fielding and managing food, clothing, shelters, airdrop systems and soldier-support items. Sarah Underhill, a photographer for the center, photographs soldiers around the world testing and fielding some of that new gear.



(Top) SGT Jorge Nunez wears a ghillie suit during the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

(Above) SFC Jose Madera conducts a Prusick climb during the competition.

(Right) Soldiers paddle their Zodiac boat during filming of an Army recruiting advertisement.



Sharp Shooters



(Left) Soldiers suffer through the final leg of the litter-carry portion of the Best Ranger Competition.

(Above) Soldiers cheer for their units during the Quartermaster Center and School's regimental week celebration, which included competitions among training units.

(Far right) A soldier adjusts the eyepiece of a new, high-tech helmet tested during the Advanced Warfighting Experiment.

(Right) Soldiers board a CH-47 with their Zodiac boat during the filming of an Army recruiting advertisement.



Standard photo submissions for Soldiers Sharp Shooters can be mailed to Photo Editor, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Photo submissions of digital images should be directed to alberto.betancourt@belvoir.army.mil. All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and captions.



SGT Casey Vanover and his team practice entering and righting a Zodiac boat in a river near Darmstadt, Germany.

SPC Tom Mund

SGT Mike Yates



LRS team radio operator SPC Dennis Moore blends into his surroundings during a practice mission.

FORWARD EYES AND EARS

Story by Heike Hasenauer

AT a time when international attention is focused on the United States' political and military response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America — and gathering and safeguarding intelligence are vital to security — the mission of the 165th Military Intelli-

gence Battalion takes on renewed significance.

"Most of the unit's soldiers are tactical counterintelligence agents," said battalion executive officer MAJ William Pfeffer.

Headquartered in Darmstadt, Germany, the 165th is one of only two

such units in the active Army, Pfeffer said. The other is part of XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C.

A critical component of the battalion is Company E — its airborne, long-range reconnaissance unit.

The company's soldiers, who are dropped into an area ahead of ground

troops, can infiltrate as much as 100 kilometers into enemy territory at night and conduct reconnaissance and surveillance while remaining undetected, Pfeffer said.

While other infantry soldiers are manning checkpoints and performing peacekeeping operations, "We're

"The difference between us and special forces is that they have a variety of missions. We do recon and surveillance only."

doing long-range reconnaissance," said CPT Scott Nelson, the company commander. "The difference between us and special forces is that they have a variety of missions. We do recon and surveillance only."

Soldiers in the unit carry 85- to 100-pound rucksacks, and their gear includes satellite communication systems, high-frequency radios, long-distance optical equipment, Global Positioning System units, video cameras to record "named area of interest" target images, and a basic load of ammunition, including grenades.

The company's 18 six-member teams are "the eyes and ears" of V Corps in Germany, Pfeffer said.

In Kosovo, they were inserted by Humvee or helicopter in the "hinterlands," near the borders of Macedonia and Serbia. The company has been deployed on a rotating basis in the Balkans since 1996, Nelson said.

"Initially, we sent 12 to 15 teams through Albania into Kosovo with the 1st Infantry Division," he added. "The only LRS people who accompanied 1st Inf. Div. soldiers into Kosovo after the air war were soldiers from one of our LRS platoons."

The Kosovo deployment was the best thing that has happened to his company in a long time, said Nelson. "It validated our mission." Four to five teams operated per platoon, with two or three teams conducting each mission set.

From Camp Bondsteel, the unit's base camp, six-man teams trekked through the woods, typically for 72 to 96 hours. After 96 hours, if everything went according to plan, UH-60 Black Hawks or Humvees returned to extract the teams.

"Our 'fight' is to go into whatever areas are deemed 'black holes' of information by a task-force commander," Nelson said.

LRS team leader SSG David Clark said targets could include such things as a ridgeline with an avenue of approach — where supplies would have to be hauled by donkey — a crossroad, or a house occupied by people suspected of hostile activity.

A mission begins with a warning order and is followed about 12 hours later by an operations order. At this point, teams spend about 62 hours in an isolation facility, doing detailed planning. After 62 hours, they get the OK to move out. In Kosovo, that



SPC Tom Mund

LRS team member SGT Jamie Phillips helocasts from a hovering UH-60 into a river near Bamberg, Germany.

meant boarding Black Hawks late at night for an insertion.

Teams moved to wood lines, began patrolling, and moved to areas about one to three kilometers from their target.

They gathered critical intelligence information on subversive activity involving both ethnic Albanians and Serbs, Nelson said. "It didn't matter who was doing it, our mission was to uncover any activity that countered the KFOR mission."

The teams confirmed the presence of illegal-arms trafficking and military activity inside the ground-security zone, Nelson said. In other potentially hostile areas, they could confirm or deny guerilla training.

"A lot of the guys are 18 and 19 years old," Clark said. And they have to know how to operate high-frequency radios, satellite communications and optical equipment, be able to identify enemy vehicles and uniforms, and have an understanding of enemy orders of battle.

A ranger-qualified staff sergeant leads an LRS team, which includes a radio operator that allows the team to communicate over long distances — such as from Europe to the United States, Nelson said.

Clark, who has been on a few



SPC Tom Mund

LRS soldiers leap from a CH-47 during Zodiac-boat training near Bamberg. The Chinook is a common mode of transport for LRS teams.

Wherever they go — because they're an advance element of a military force — the LRS teams often see and hear gunfire in their vicinity.

missions in Kosovo, was largely responsible for the success of those missions. He was provided guidelines, but was the principal planner for each mission. Planning what to do if the team's location is compromised is part of the plan.

"Once, in the Balkans, my team was compromised by a herd of cows that walked right into our position," Clark said. "The white pepper we had to throw at them didn't chase them off, and a cow stepped right on one of our guys." Because a farmer in the area spotted the soldier, the team had to be extracted.

Herds of cattle actually pose a frequent danger, Clark said, because they roam around just about everywhere. "We're more likely to be compromised by animals than by people, because animals can smell us."

An exception was when a group of high school students who were picking mushrooms stumbled on one of the teams, said SGT Sean Lumdsen, an assistant team leader.

Much of what the LRS teams do simply requires common sense, Clark said. "We don't walk across freshly plowed fields that will be worked the next day, for example, especially when a lot of the area's inhabitants don't wear shoes. And, when we

look for hiding places, it's easier to hide three-man groups than six-man groups."

"You pick an area after asking yourself, 'If I were the enemy, would I want to go there, walk there?'" Lumdsen said. "If the answer's 'no,' that's where you go."

Wherever they go — because they're an advance element of a military force — the LRS teams often see and hear gunfire in their vicinity, Clark said. "It's not uncommon for us to have rounds going off near our positions. It's sort of like having Super Bowl tickets and just watching instead of getting involved."

A critical intelligence-gathering asset for the Army, LRS teams penetrate enemy lines to help provide commanders with reliable information that can alter the course of battle — or a peacekeeping mission — and mean the difference between success and failure. □

BE A PART OF YOUR MAGAZINE

SEND YOUR PHOTOS TO SOLDIERS

Soldiers wants you, your family and friends to be part of our hottest issue of the year. We're already planning our 2003 almanac and once again need your help.

A large part of each almanac is "This Is Our Army," a photo feature that tells the Army story at the local level.

If you have candid photos of the Army family at work or play, send them in NOW. **The only restriction is that your photos should be taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002, and be sent to us by Sept. 1.**

Soldiers requires color prints or slides. We don't need fancy 8x10 prints — regular 4x6 prints will do. We can accept digital images, but they must be very high resolution (minimum is 5x7 at 300 dpi), the kind taken with a professional digital camera. If your images can fit onto a floppy disk, they are too small. Please do not send prints made from digital images. Also, please **DO NOT** e-mail photo submissions.

To enter, complete a copy of the form below and attach it to each photo you send. Photos without complete caption information will not be considered. Photos and accompanying information cannot be returned.

If you have questions, contact our photo editor by phone at (703) 806-4504 or (DSN) 656-4504, or via e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.

Mail your entries with prints or slides to:
Soldiers; ATTN: Photo Editor; 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108; Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.

"Writing and Shooting for Soldiers Magazine" and the Soldiers Style Guide, are both available at www.soldiersmagazine.com.

TIPS FOR PHOTO SUCCESS

MORE than half the photos we receive each year never make it to the final selection process, mostly for avoidable reasons. Follow these simple tips to be sure your photos have the best chance of being selected.

1. Complete the accompanying entry form and carefully attach it to the back of each photo you send, or provide a way of linking it to each image.
2. Make sure your package is postmarked by the Sept. 1, 2002 deadline.
3. Send only photos taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002.
4. Check closely to be sure your photos don't show obvious uniform or safety violations.
5. Identify people in each photo by full name, rank and correct unit designation; and provide a means of contacting you if we have any questions about the information you've sent.
6. Don't send snapshots of people staring into the camera. Candid photos are usually better.
7. Send only quality images: No Polaroids; no out-of-focus, discolored or torn images; and no prints from digital images.
8. Don't write on the back of your prints, because this may damage the images. Also, avoid using staples and paper clips on photos.
9. Protect your images. Use cardboard to reinforce your package before you mail.
10. If you plan to send digital images, follow the guidelines in our Style Guide, posted on **Soldiers Online** at www.soldiersmagazine.com



Soldiers

"This Is Our Army" Entry Form

Photographer's full name (and rank if military)

e-mail address

Phone

Street address

City (APO)

State

Zip

Photocopy this entry form and attach a copy to each photo you submit. Where and when was the photo taken? (Use approximate date if necessary.)

Describe the action in the photo. (Include full name, rank and unit of those pictured.)

Mail to: **Soldiers, ATTN: Photo Editor, 9325 Gunston Rd., Suite S-108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581.** Photos must have been taken between Aug. 16, 2001, and Aug. 15, 2002. Color prints and slides are acceptable. Photos that are obviously posed or that show obvious uniform or safety violations will be disqualified. Entries cannot be returned and must be postmarked by Sept. 1, 2002. For more information see **Soldiers Online** at www.soldiersmagazine.com.

The American Red Cross **ARC** on the Move

Story by SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

SOLDIERS are not the only people whose jobs require them to deploy to hot spots on short notice.

Members of the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service mobile staff must be prepared to don their BDUs and deploy with the U.S. military anywhere in the world with five days notice, said Carolyn Seldon, senior associate of deployments for the Armed Forces Emergency Service and a former mobile staff member.

"I didn't join the military, so this was my way of serving my country," Seldon said.

In December 2001, the Red Cross sent two mobile staff members to set up operations in Uzbekistan.

Terry Hitchcock, station manager in Kitzingen, Germany, and Wilfredo Solis, station manager at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., traveled to AFES headquarters in Falls Church, Va., for briefings before receiving individual replacement training at Fort Benning, Ga., and then heading to central Asia.

"If you're in AFES and you don't like to deploy, you're in the wrong service," said Hitchcock, who is on his sixth deployment in 31 years.

Hitchcock was also the first AFES member to arrive in theater during

Desert Shield.

The American Red Cross is the only member of the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent that sends workers on deployments with its country's military, said Sue A. Richter, AFES vice president.

"I'm doing something positive for our military so they know that someone is there," said Solis, who was a graves registration specialist in the Army Reserve for 13 years.

"This will be a unique experience, again wearing the uniform, but in another area," Solis said. "We're going to be the link between service mem-

A sailor kisses his wife and infant son goodbye as Red Cross mobile staff members wait nearby with other family members.

Daniel Cima, ARC

bers and families."

Seldon said the deployments section picks its members, selecting those with varying experience levels and different cultural backgrounds.

Wearing the red and white Red Cross patch on their BDU sleeves doesn't protect the mobile staff members from harm. To reduce the risk of injuries, the Red Cross staffers are trained how to wear the Kevlar helmet, flak vest and protective mask, and learn such basic military survival skills as how to react to hostile fire.

"We know the

risks," Hitchcock said. "When the military requests our services they do so with our security in mind."

While Hitchcock was deployed to Somalia, the building he lived and worked in was attacked. A sergeant major in a room down the hall came running to make sure he was safe. Hitchcock said he had on his Kevlar helmet and flak vest and had taken cover.

"I never even thought about the risk," said Barbara Green, station manager at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., about her deployments. "I was on this big adventure."

Claudette Johnson, an associate in deployments, echoed Green's sentiments. She said that just as the Red Cross staff looks out for the soldiers well-being, the soldiers watch out for the Red Cross staff.

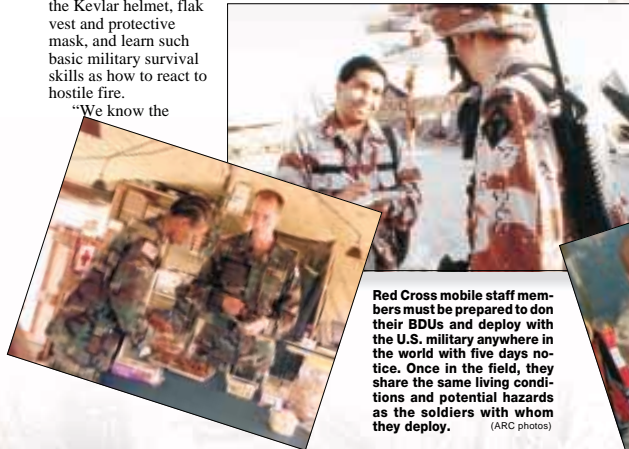
The military community also takes

care of the mobile staff's family, just as it would any other deployed person's family, she said.

Green said that the military staff is just as proud of the Red Cross worker deploying as they are of the soldiers. □



Wilfredo Solis and Terry Hitchcock, members of the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service mobile staff, take a break during processing at Fort Benning, Ga., before deploying to Uzbekistan.



Red Cross mobile staff members must be prepared to don their BDUs and deploy with the U.S. military anywhere in the world with five days notice. Once in the field, they share the same living conditions and potential hazards as the soldiers with whom they deploy.

(ARC photos)



Posters on the door of the Armed Forces Emergency Service Center in Falls Church, Va., list the names of the agency's staff members who have gone to support military members.

SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

Keeping Families Informed

Story and Photos by
SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

WHILE soldiers are assigned or deployed around the world, the circle of life continues for their families back home.

The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service has been keeping soldiers informed about births and deaths officially for the last 97 years, and unofficially for 104 years, said Sue A. Richter, AFES vice president.

In 1905, Congress gave the American Red Cross the job of keeping military personnel informed about their families back home, a task American Red Cross founder Clara Barton had been performing since her pre-Red Cross days during the Civil War, said Rick Davis, director of AFES Systems.

During the Spanish-American War,



An American Red Cross volunteer serves water to a wounded British soldier at a railway station in France in May 1913.

Barton, then head of the American Red Cross, used the military's telegraphs to send messages home for soldiers, though the organization's mission during that conflict was to provide nursing.

Now, the Red Cross verifies and clarifies messages at its two service centers and at local chapters, including 48 on military installations, Davis said.

The two service centers, one at Fort Sill, Okla., and the other in Falls Church, Va., input data into a data base that's accessible to Red Cross chapters around the world, he said.

Barbara Green, station manager of the Red Cross office at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, said that being able to access the data base of cases allows her to get information directly from the staff at the message's destination.

AFES centers are also able to access military personnel data to help locate service members, said Jesse W. Cowart, manager of the Falls Church center.

To help military personnel keep their families informed of their whereabouts, the Red Cross provides letters with blank spaces that soldiers can fill out with such information as



Soldiers donate to the American Red Cross before embarking on a Europe-bound troopship in February 1944.

their unit and social security number. They can then mail the letters home free of charge, Cowart said.

Because emergency-service representatives have access to personnel data and also receive messages from classified locations, each of the center's representatives must have a secret clearance, he said.

Most of the more than 400 calls per day the centers receive concern deaths, injuries or births, Cowart said. The centers also handle 1,200 e-mails per month from Red Cross offices. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, however, the number of health-and-welfare calls

increased as soldiers were called up, Cowart said.

Overseas, the emergency-service centers also deliver messages for government employees, contractors and teachers.

AFES is the highest-rated Red Cross customer service, Cowart said. □



The Armed Forces Emergency Service Center in Falls Church passes vital information to service members.

Know Them Before You Need Them

Story by SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

EVERYONE needs a close relative that is just a phone call away.

The American Red Cross wants members of the military family to consider their local Red Cross chapters

to be that close relative, even when they're stationed away from major military installations, said Herbert L. Lawrence, director of community support for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Service.

Through its "Get to Know Us Before You Need Us" program, more than 1,000 Red Cross chapters in the United States and its territories have been seeking out "hidden" military members and their families, he said. They include National Guard members and Reservists, recruiters, ROTC cadets, members

of Military Entrance Processing Station units and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel.

Also, because Red Cross support doesn't end when soldiers retire or leave the service, the Red Cross is one of the community organizations that work with Department of Veterans Affairs to help veterans with VA claims, Lawrence said.

AFES guides local Red Cross chapters on how to work with military units so that when service members are called up for deployment they and their families already know their local Red Cross chapter members and the services they offer. In turn, the Red

Cross chapter knows what the military members and their families need from the community, Lawrence said.

He added that at least three-quarters of the chapters with military members in their communities have regular contact with those members or their families.

Regular contact with its local military community, gave one chapter the idea to set up a program to recruit lawyers in the community to provide wills and powers of attorney for a deploying unit that was located away from its staff judge advocate. This enabled the soldiers to have the necessary legal documents before they left their families.

Local Red Cross chapters also help military families that need the assistance of their military aid society, such as Army Emergency Relief. Red Cross chapters will advance soldiers AER funds upon approval by AER staff, Lawrence said.

The Red Cross also works with U.S. Army Reserve Command and its family support group to ensure the message about Red Cross services is getting out to soldiers and their families, he said.

Contacting the Red Cross is an item on checklists in the Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Programs Toolkit available at www.defenselink.mil/ra/family/toolkit. □



Local Red Cross chapters have been seeking out "hidden" military members and their families.

Around the Services

Compiled by *Paul Disney* from service reports

PA2 Matthew Juillerat, USCG



Coast Guard

Coast Guard sea marshals have been boarding a steady flow of ships passing through America's harbors since the September terrorist attacks. The marshals, who are mostly Reservists and in some cases recently retired service members recalled to duty, inspect large ships that could be carrying explosives and be used as weapons of mass destruction, and they stand watch on other ships that are considered possible targets for attack.



Air Force

Air Force officials have given recruiters the order to find 833 additional airmen before the end of the fiscal year. The additional people, all earmarked for the security forces career field, are being recruited as part of an effort to end the shortage in that career field, which has developed as a result of increased security operations since the September terrorist attacks.



Sr. Airman Mark Kuita, USAF



Marines

Marine Sgt. Steven Lee had an unusual opportunity to promote the Corps while he fielded questions about his job on a Hartford, Conn., radio station. He was appearing on a radio game show where listeners call in and try to guess the occupation of a guest. After answering "no" to answers such as "priest," "rabbi," "FBI agent," and "park ranger," Lee was finally identified as a Marine recruiter. Following the game, the morning show hosts spent another half-hour on the air asking what it takes to be a marine.



Sgt. Jonathan Agee, USMC

Navy

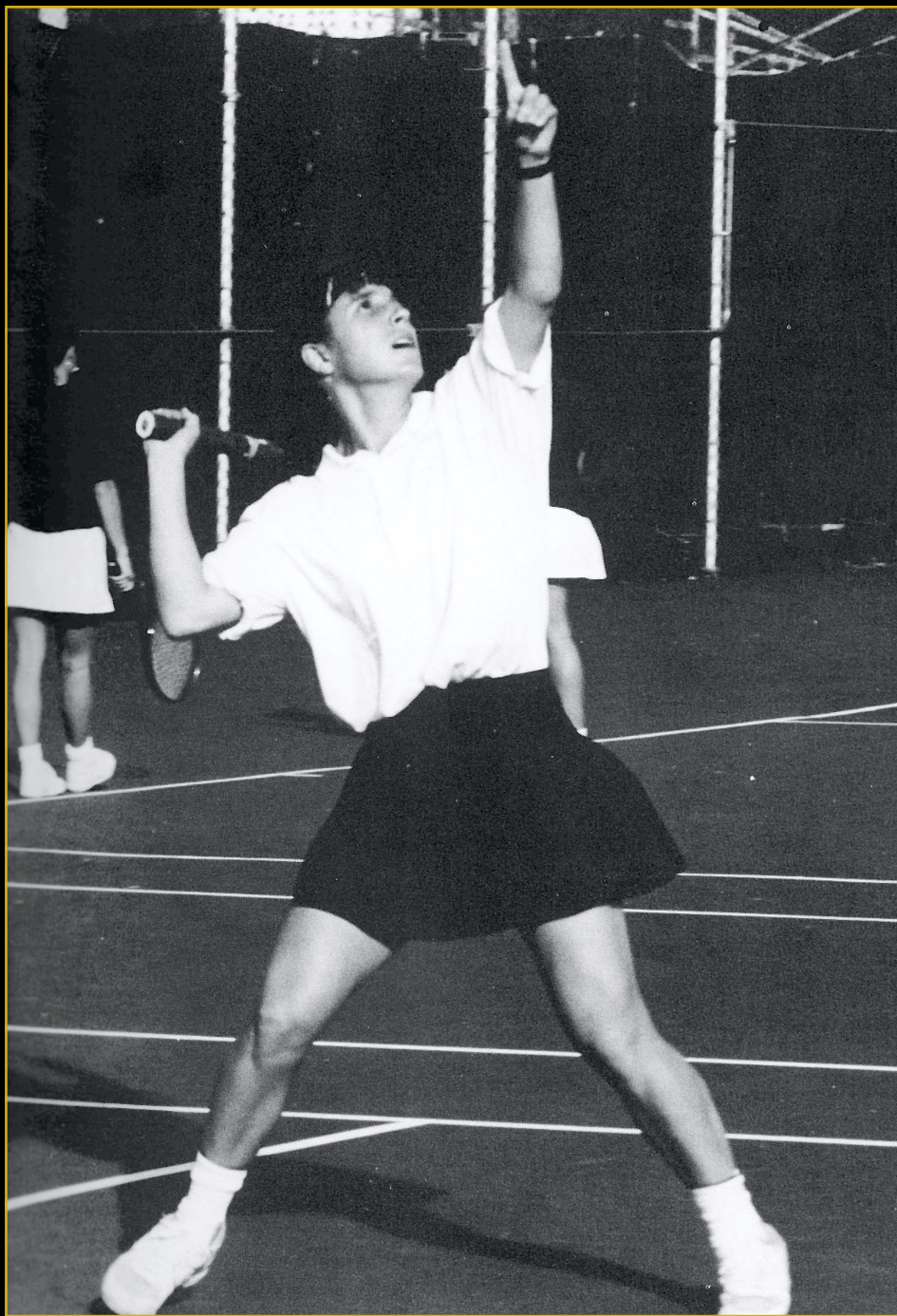
USS *John F. Kennedy* completed more than 30 hours of sea trials in February, meeting or exceeding all standards necessary to prove the carrier is safe and reliable to conduct sustained combat operations. The ship conducted tests of its engineering plant and other operational equipment following a period of repairs after a steering control incident delayed an exercise in preparation of the JFK Battle Group's next deployment.





Twilight Tattoo

Soldiers are America's credentials throughout the world and to communities across the United States. The United States Army Military District of Washington's Twilight Tattoo program presents those credentials regularly to the American public through the spring and summer months. Like soldiers throughout the Army, they are the backbone of any Army community relations program. MDW is proud to be recipient of the 2001 Chief of Public Affairs Community Relations Award of Distinction for Ongoing Community Relations Programs and salutes soldiers everywhere. This year's program will be presented on the Ellipse, Washington, D.C., every Wednesday at 7 p.m. from April 17 to July 31. For other locations, dates and group reservations call 202-685-2888 or visit the Web site at www.mdw.army.mil.



REBECCA MARIER

Rebecca Marier was the first woman to be named West Point's top all-around graduate. The former tennis star and captain of the tennis team in 1994 and 1995 reported to Harvard's Medical School upon commission.

